

Pending Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

¹⁸
Claim ~~12~~. (Withdrawn): A method for identifying a compound that regulates an HL promoter through an estrogen receptor, which method comprises detecting a change in the level of expression of a reporter gene in an assay system of claim ~~40~~¹⁵ contacted with a test compound, wherein detection of a change in the level of expression of the reporter gene indicates that the test compound regulates the HL promoter through the estrogen receptor.

¹⁹ ¹⁸
Claim ~~13~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~, wherein the test compound is an estrogen or an estrogen analog.

²⁰ ¹⁸
Claim ~~14~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~, wherein the level of reporter gene expression decreases when contacted with a test compound that regulates the HL promoter through the estrogen receptor.

²¹ ¹⁸
Claim ~~15~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.

²² ²¹
Claim ~~16~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~15~~, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ER α or an ER β .

²³ ¹⁸
Claim ~~17~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of C/EBP α , C/EBP β , C/EBP γ , C/EBP δ , and C/EBP ϵ .

²⁴ ¹⁸
Claim ~~18~~. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~1~~, wherein the HL promoter is positioned proximal to the 5' end of the human HL coding region.

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²⁵
Claim ~~19~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~18~~²⁴, wherein the HL promoter is the human HL promoter region from -1557 to +43, relative to the HL coding region start site.

²⁶
Claim ~~20~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~¹⁸, wherein the reporter gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, β -galactosidase, chloramphenicol transferase, horseradish peroxidase, and alkaline phosphatase.

²⁷
Claim ~~21~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~20~~²⁶, wherein the reporter gene is luciferase.

²⁸
Claim ~~22~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~¹⁸, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.

²⁹
Claim ~~23~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~22~~²⁸, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a HepG2 cell, COS, CHO, MDCK, Hela, 3T3, and primary cells.

³⁰
Claim ~~24~~ (Withdrawn): The method according to claim ~~12~~¹⁸, wherein the compound decreases the level of expression of the reporter gene through the estrogen receptor.

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

¹
Claim ~~26~~ (Previously presented): An isolated cell comprising
(i) a first exogenous nucleic acid molecule which encodes an estrogen receptor;
(ii) a second exogenous nucleic acid molecule which encodes a CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBP) transcription factor; and
(iii) a reporter gene operatively associated with a hepatic lipase (HL) promoter.

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Claim 27. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor is a human estrogen receptor.

3
Claim 28. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 27, wherein the estrogen receptor is an ER α or an ER β .

4
Claim 29. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the C/EBP transcription factor is selected from the group consisting of C/EBP α , C/EBP β , C/EBP γ , C/EBP δ , and C/EBP ϵ .

5
Claim 30. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the estrogen receptor, the C/EBP transcription factor, and the reporter gene operatively associated with a hepatic lipase promoter are expressed from separate vectors or the same vector.

6
Claim 31. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the hepatic lipase promoter is positioned proximal to the 5' end of human hepatic lipase coding region.

7
Claim 32. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the hepatic lipase promoter comprises the human hepatic lipase promoter region from -1557 to +43, relative to the human hepatic lipase coding region start site.

8
Claim 33. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 26, wherein the reporter gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of luciferase, green fluorescent protein, yellow fluorescent protein, β -galactosidase, chloramphenicol transferase, horseradish peroxidase, and alkaline phosphatase.

9
Claim 34. (Previously presented): The cell of claim 33, wherein the reporter gene is luciferase.

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Claim ~~35~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~26~~, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.

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Claim ~~36~~. (Previously presented): The mammalian cell of claim ~~35~~, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a human cell, a rat cell, a monkey cell, a dog cell, and a hamster cell.

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Claim ~~37~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~26~~, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of HepG2, COS, CHO, MDCK, Hela, 3T3, and primary cells.

13

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Claim ~~38~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~26~~, wherein the first exogenous nucleic acid molecule is inserted into an expression vector.

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Claim ~~39~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~38~~, wherein the expression vector is selected from the group consisting of pCR1, pBR322, pMal-C2, pET, pGEX, pMB9, RP4, pYES2, pYESHisA, pYESHisB, pYES HisC, pcDNA3, and viral vectors.

15

Claim ~~40~~. (Previously presented): An assay system for compounds that modulate hepatic lipase promoter activity comprising a population of cells of claim ~~26~~, wherein the number of cells in a single assay system is sufficient to express a detectable amount of the protein encoded by the reporter gene under conditions of maximum reporter gene expression.

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Claim ~~41~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~26~~, wherein the cell is a hepatocarcinoma cell.

17

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Claim ~~42~~. (Previously presented): The cell of claim ~~26~~, wherein the second exogenous nucleic acid molecule is inserted into an expression vector.